

SENATE BILL 464

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10,
Chapter 7, Part 5, relative to open records
requests.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-7-503, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(7)(A) and substituting instead the following:

(i) A records custodian shall not require a written request or assess a charge to view a public record unless otherwise required by law. Requests may be submitted by all official modes of communication, including in person, telephone, fax, email, or other electronic means.

(ii) A records custodian may require a request for copies of public records to be:

(a) In writing; or

(b) On a form developed by the office of open records counsel.

(iii) If a records custodian requires a request to be in writing under subdivision (a)(7)(A)(ii)(a), the records custodian shall accept any of the following:

(a) A handwritten request submitted in person or by mail to the records custodian;

(b) An email request submitted to the records custodian; and

(c) A request on an electronic form, if available, online that can be electronically submitted to the records custodian.

(iv) If a records custodian requires that a request for copies of public records be made on a form developed by the office of open records counsel, then the records

custodian shall provide such form in the most expeditious means possible when the form is requested.

(v) A records custodian may require any person making a request to view or make a copy of a public record to present photo identification, if the person possesses photo identification, issued by a governmental entity, that includes the person's address. If a person does not possess photo identification, the records custodian may require other forms of identification acceptable to the records custodian.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.